



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RCE/3726
11
Remarks
N. Jimenez
1-223

In re application of

Docket No: Q64020

Shinobu HASEGAWA, et al.

Appln. No.: 09/833,815

Group Art Unit: 3726

Confirmation No.: 5723

Examiner: Marc Q. Jimenez

Filed: April 13, 2001

For: ROLLER MEMBER

RECEIVED

DEC 20 2002

PRELIMINARY REMARKS

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please consider Applicants' remarks as follows.

With the filing of the RCE and entry of the Amendment filed November 12, 2002, claim 1 is amended to recite that the roller member is used in OA apparatuses for imparting a charge, eliminating a charge, or removing toner adhered onto the surface of a transfer belt or a transfer-conveyor belt. In contrast, each of Bresson, Van der Velden and Songer relied upon by the Examiner only discloses a printing sleeve (rolling member) carried in comparatively large-size printing machines, such as, for example, a rotary press, completely different from OA apparatuses.

As claimed in claim 1, the roller member comprises a metallic core and an unshrinkable sleeve, where the core roller is pressed into the unshrinkable sleeve and the sleeve is heat-welded onto the surface of the core roller. Furthermore, the sleeve is formed from an elastomer material and has a Young's modulus of 120-200 MPa and a thickness of 30-200 μm . By virtue of these

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characteristic features, the present invention achieves superior results and advantages. Namely, as discussed at page 8 of the specification, "the roller member of the present invention exhibit excellent charge-imparting characteristics with respect to toner, and thus exhibits enhanced performance of removal of toner. In addition, toner filming does not occur easily, and durability of the roller member is enhanced." None of these advantages are taught or suggested by the cited prior art.

Withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of claims 1-5 and 7 is earnestly solicited.

In the event that the Examiner believes that it may be helpful to advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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